

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-01 SIL-01 AID-05

EUR-12 /080 W

----- 053095

R 210330Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5913

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SYDNEY 2453

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, VS, AS

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THIEU

REF: CANBERRA 07505

1. ON NOVEMBER 20 THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (CPA) IN COOPERATION WITH THE LEFT WING ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DISARMAMENT CONDUCTED A SMALL DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF CONGEN OFFICES, DIRECTED AGAINST THE THIEU REGIME AND DEMANDING CESSATION OF U.S. AID TO THIEU AND AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF PRG. ALTHOUGH POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH CHIEF HAD INDICATED IN ADVANCE THAT CPA HOPED FOR ABOUT 100 DEMONSTRATORS, SPECIAL BRANCH PREDICTION OF ABOUT 30 WAS BORNE OUT IN THE EVENT. NO DEPUTATION OR PETITION WAS PRESENTED TO CONGEN BUT LEAFLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED SUMMARIZING THE GROUP'S DEMANDS.

2. WHILE THE DOMONSTRATION AS SUCH WAS HARDLY WORTH
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NOTICING, IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT FOR ITS TIMING WHICH

FOLLOWS SHORTLY AFTER THE NOVEMBER 12 FORMATION OF A LEFT-WING LABOR PARTY CAUCUS GROUP TO "PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS ACCORDS AND RECOGNITION OF PRG" (REFTEL). IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN, LEFT-WING SENATOR ARTHUR GIETZELT, IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY LABOR PARTY LEADERS IN NEW SOUTH WALES TO BE VERY CLOSE TO THE CPA IN SYDNEY. IT IS HARD TO ESCAPE THE INFERENCE THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS SELIBERATELY PLANNED, PROBABLY WITH GIETZELT'S KNOWLEDGE, TO STIMULATE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVES. THIS INFERENCE IS SUPPORTED BY THE TEXT OF THE LEAFLET ITSELF WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: "AUSTRALIANS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED. IT IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH THAT OUR GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES ONLY THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIEU IN SOUTH VIETNAM, AND GIVES MOST OF ITS AID TO SAIGON. THE AGREEMENT RECOGNISES TWO ADMINISTRATIONS - AND SO SHOULD WE. WE CALL FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM ON A BSIS OF EQUALITY WITH SAIGON. WE URGE A MORE ACTIVE POLICY COMMITMENT BY OUR GOVERNMENT TO SECURING REAL PEACE IN VIETNAM THROUGH THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT. U.S. END ALL AID TO THIEU* RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS* RECOGNIZE THE P.R.G.* IMPLEMENT THE PEACE AGREEMENT*" HANNAH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SYDNEY02453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740336-0907
From: SYDNEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741122/aaaaasnk.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CANBERRA 07505
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <21 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THIEU
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, VS, AS, (THIEU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005